Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office Report to the ACF Region VII Office October to December 2006

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Child Care:

- After securing funding from the Iowa Department of Human Services, the Iowa HSSCO appointed team reviewed application and announced funding to four state-funded Early Head Start pilot initiative grants have been awarded to MICA, NEICAC/NICAO, Community Action of Siouxland and the Family Program (through AEA 13), a non-Head Start agency that operates a state-funded parent support program for children 0-3. These projects are designed to increase the quality and capacity of child care through partnerships with community child care programs, child development homes or kith and kin care, and to support positive child development for low-income children, and provide comprehensive services to the families of these children through the provision of Early Head Start services. Funding comes from the Iowa Department of Human Services through the federal Child Care Development Fund.
- Child Care Services Association of North Carolina is planning to turn over the Iowa T.E.A.C.H. license to the Iowa AEYC. Preparations for the transfer are currently underway with a transfer expected to take place officially on January 1, 2007. T.E.A.C.H. will remain in its current location through mid-year 2007 and services are expected to continue without interruption. Currently five Iowa T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipients work in Head Start.
- Iowa HSSCO represented the Iowa Department of Education at the State Child Care Advisory Council meeting on September 28th. Key items from the meeting included an October date for a new market rate survey, plans to fund projects from the quality dollars are proceeding apace, and QRS is going strong. The first 5-start child development home for family child care providers was awarded to a provider in Urbandale. In a subsequent email, Iowa Department of Human Services has announced that the child care unit will no longer be directly under the Division Administrator. The Division of CFS is seeking a second bureau chief for a Bureau of Child Care and Community Services. The Bureau Chief will have responsibility for child care and a range of child welfare/community based-related programs.

Education/Professional Development:

• Registration information and program brochure for next month's Iowa Early Care, Health and Education Congress has been emailed to all programs. The congress theme is "Emerging Strategies in Our Global Economy" and is scheduled for November 14 and 15. The congress will feature two keynote speakers: Adele Robinson, Advocacy Director for NAEYC, and Helen Raikes, early childhood researcher from Lincoln, Nebraska. Dr. Raikes has been involved in much of the Early Head Start research and will talk about Quality Rating Systems. The Congress will also feature a panel of state legislative and business supporters of early childhood. Among the many breakout sessions will be presentations by Head Start colleagues

discussing the new Positive Behavior Supports initiative and encouraging a growth in inclusive classrooms.

- Forrest Corson of LangTech is again available to help programs do NRS assessments in Spanish. He is available at (515) 255-4941 or forrest.corson@langtechinc.com. Forrest, one of his workers (Sandra) and Tom Rendon reviewed the refresher video and are ready to support programs as needed. Forrest also conducted a Spanish language assessor training on October 4.
- Iowa HSSCO has fielded a number of questions about how Head Start teachers can convert an initial license into a standard State of Iowa teacher's license. To effect that conversion, teachers can fill out the "Application For Conversion From an Initial To A Standard License" which is found at http://www.boee.iowa.gov/forms/Convert10To15.pdf. The application requires the signature of a supervisor verifying their employment. In most cases the Head Start programs would be considered a "Non Public School" and therefore requires only the verification by the supervisor that the applicant has worked three or more years.
- Iowa HSSCO represented IHSA at a R7HSA GoTo Meeting on professional development. Plans for coordination and regularly scheduled training events were the topic of discussion. Donna Veatch is considering exploring annual Gesbeck event in the region as well as some focused topic webinars.
- There are a number of upcoming conferences, training and networking sessions:
 - The Region VII Director's Caucus is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, October 24-25, at the Holiday Inn at Country Club Plaza in Kansas City. Register with April Noe at noe6074@earthlink.net.
 - The Science Training Networking session is scheduled for Friday, October 27, at the Urbandale United Church of Christ in Urbandale. Register with Kim Young-Kent (see below)
 - A Fatherhood Training will take place before and after the IHSA Annual Meeting on November 1 at the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines. Register with Kim Young-Kent at Kyoungkent@tricountychildandfamily.org.
 - A training on Steps to Success will take place before and after the IHSA Annual Meeting on November 1 at the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines. Register with Kim Young-Kent at Kyoungkent@tricountychildandfamily.org.
 - An oral health networking session is scheduled on Wednesday, December 6 from 10AM to 3:30PM at MICA in Marshalltown. All health specialists and other partners working on oral health are welcome. Register with Kim-Young-Kent.
 - The Family Support workers networking session with FaDSS has been cancelled. Programs are recommended to attend a number of regional training sponsored by Community Empowerment. Iowa HSSCO will send lists of those trainings as soon as we find out about them.

Children with Disabilities:

• Ten Head Start programs and one delegate agency attended a statewide training and launch of a new early childhood Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) initiative. Those agencies include NEICAC, NICAO, YOUR, MICA, SIEDA, Matura, SCICAP, UDMO, Drake University, HACAP and the Des Moines Public School delegate. The effort supports the development of program-wide supports necessary to implement the PBS model in individual classrooms. Head Start programs participating are invited to an ICN on evaluation expectations on Nov. 2nd from

2:30 to 4:30 PM and another training for tertiary level interventions on Nov. 3 from 9AM to 4PM at the West Des Moines Learning Center.

Health:

- Nutrition mini-grants (\$250) are still available through the Iowa Department of Education. The grants are available to Child and Adult Care Food Programs to can fund local nutrition activities to promote healthy eating and physical activity. Application information and forms are available at http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/fn/tn/grant.html.
- IHSA has applied for additional funding for Healthy Smiles from Delta Dental. The grant will fund another round of 10 workshops to be hosted by each of the following locations (subject to negotiation): Remsen (Mid-Sioux Opportunity), Marshalltown (MICA), Spencer (Upper Des Moines Opportunities), Des Moines (Drake Univ. EHS), Leon (SCICAP), Davenport (Comm. Action of Eastern Iowa), Burlington (Comm. Action of Southeast Iowa), Sioux City (Comm. Action of Siouxland), Fort Dodge (Y.O.U.R., Inc.) and Ottumwa (SIEDA). The next meeting of the Oral Health work group will be Wednesday, November 8.

Family Literacy:

- Ready to Learn at Iowa Public Television is conducting a train-the-trainer workshop for people interested in conducting Provider Book Clubs on Thursday, November 2 from 9 to 4 at Iowa Public Television in Johnston, Iowa. Registration closes October 24. To register, contact Dena Goplerud at 515-242-6268. All grantees are encouraged to participate in conducting Provider and Parent Book Clubs as a way to provide books to parents and provide supportive literacy training to parents. The trainings are fully aligned with the Every Child Reads material and provide a perfect way to solicit parent support for literacy development occurring in the classroom.
- Speaking of Every Child Reads, new round of training to be hosted by every AEA in Iowa beginning this fall through June 2007 thanks to a renewed commitment of support from the Iowa Department of Education. Additional funding from Empowerment Professional Development dollars will fund more trainings and follow-up activities with past trainees.

Homelessness:

• Nothing new this month.

Welfare Reform:

• Nothing new this month.

Advocacv:

• A list of position statements by Iowa's two state gubernatorial candidates about issues affecting children and families is available on the Every Child Counts website at http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org/index.php.

Other:

• Kim Young-Kent of Tri-County Child and Family showcased her Early Head Start programs on September 21-22 when the Community Empowerment State Board met in Waterloo last month. I fielded many positive comments from participants about the program and it was a good

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opportunity to make a strong impression about the quality and effectiveness of Head Start programs with board members, CEA coordinators and staff. During the board meeting, Tom Rendon and Kim presented on Early Head Start, especially the strong national research results. Those results spurred discussion among board members.

- The ICAA/IHSA Resource Bank has been launched. A new flier outlining that project is at the printer and will soon be sent out to programs.
- Iowa HSSCO participated in a conference call with Channel Wilkins and other officials from the Office of Head Start. During the conference call, the Office announced plans to improve coordination of the state collaboration offices by having a single liaison at each regional office. They will also concur on all annual refunding applications prior to Regional Offices award the collaboration grants. The national priorities for collaboration work include: 1) Head Start-Child Care-Pre-K Partnerships; 2) Health Services (oral health, obesity, medical home, asthma); 3) Welfare and 4) Professional Development (development or enhancement of state professional development plans and the promotion of college credits for early childhood training and life experiences.